

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W

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R 211605Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1260

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3498

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR (LACABANNE, RAUL)

SUBJ: LACABANNE'S TROUBLES

REF: BA 3239

1. THE FEDERAL INTERVENTOR IN CORDOBA, RAUL LACABANNE, IS A FRIEND OF LOPEZ REGA'S AND APPEARS TO BE IN A STRONG POSITION. HE DOES, HOWEVER, HAVE SOME EMBARRASSING PROBLEMS. ON MAY 1 HE PROPOSED A NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURE FOR CORDOBA WHICH WAS IMMEDIATELY CRITICIZED BY THE OPPOSITION AS SMACKING OF FASCISM (SEE REFTEL. LACABANNE DISMISSED HIS CRITICS AS "A GANT OF N'ER DO WELLS." TWO DAYS LATER, HOWEVER, THE FREJULI BLOC IN THE PROVINCIAL SENATE (I.E. LACABANNE'S OWN PARTY) CONDEMNED HIS PROPOSALS, POINTING OUT THAT THEY WERE IN CONFLICT WITH THE CONSTITUTION. SINCE THEN, LACABANNE HAS RETREATED TO LAME EXPLANATIONS OF "WHAT HE REALLY MEANT TO SAY."

2. LAST WEEK, LACABANNE AGAIN PUT HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH. TERRORISM, HE SAID, HAD BEEN COMPLETELY DEFEATED IN CORDOBA. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT SOME MONTHS AGO HE HAD MADE A SIMILAR CLAIM, ONLY TO SEE THE US CONSULAR AGENT IN CORDOBA KIDNAPPED AND KILLED A FEW DAYS LATER. LACABANNE THEN BLAMED HIS PROBLEMS ON INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT, SAYING HE NEEDED AT LEAST 12 THOUSAND MORE POLICEMEN TO DO THE JOB. HE DID NOT GET THEM, BUT LAST WEEK
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HE WAS NEVERTHELESS TEMPTED TO AGAIN CLAIM THAT TERRORISM HAD BEEN DEFEATED. ON MAY 17, AS THOUGH TO GIVE THE LIE

TO HIS WORDS, TERRORISTS ROCKETED HIS HOUSE. THAT HE WAS NOT KILLED WAS, AS HE HIMSELF EXCITEDLY DECLARED, DUE TO THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE ROCKETS FAILED TO GO OFF.

3. LACABANNE AND LOPEZ REGA HAVE NO IDEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, BUT THE FORMER MAY HAVE SHOT HIS MOUTH OFF ONE TOO MANY TIMES. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS TO SEE HIM CURBED OR RETIRED. LOPEZ REGA WILL CERTAINLY DO IT IN SUCH A WAY, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WILL BE NO MISTAKE THAT IT IS HE AND NOT ROCAMORA WHO HAS GOTTEN RID OF LACABANNE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS03498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750179-0254
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750528/aaaaazie.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BA 3239
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LACABANNE'S TROUBLES
TAGS: PINT, AR, (LACABANNE, RAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006